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STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

1953



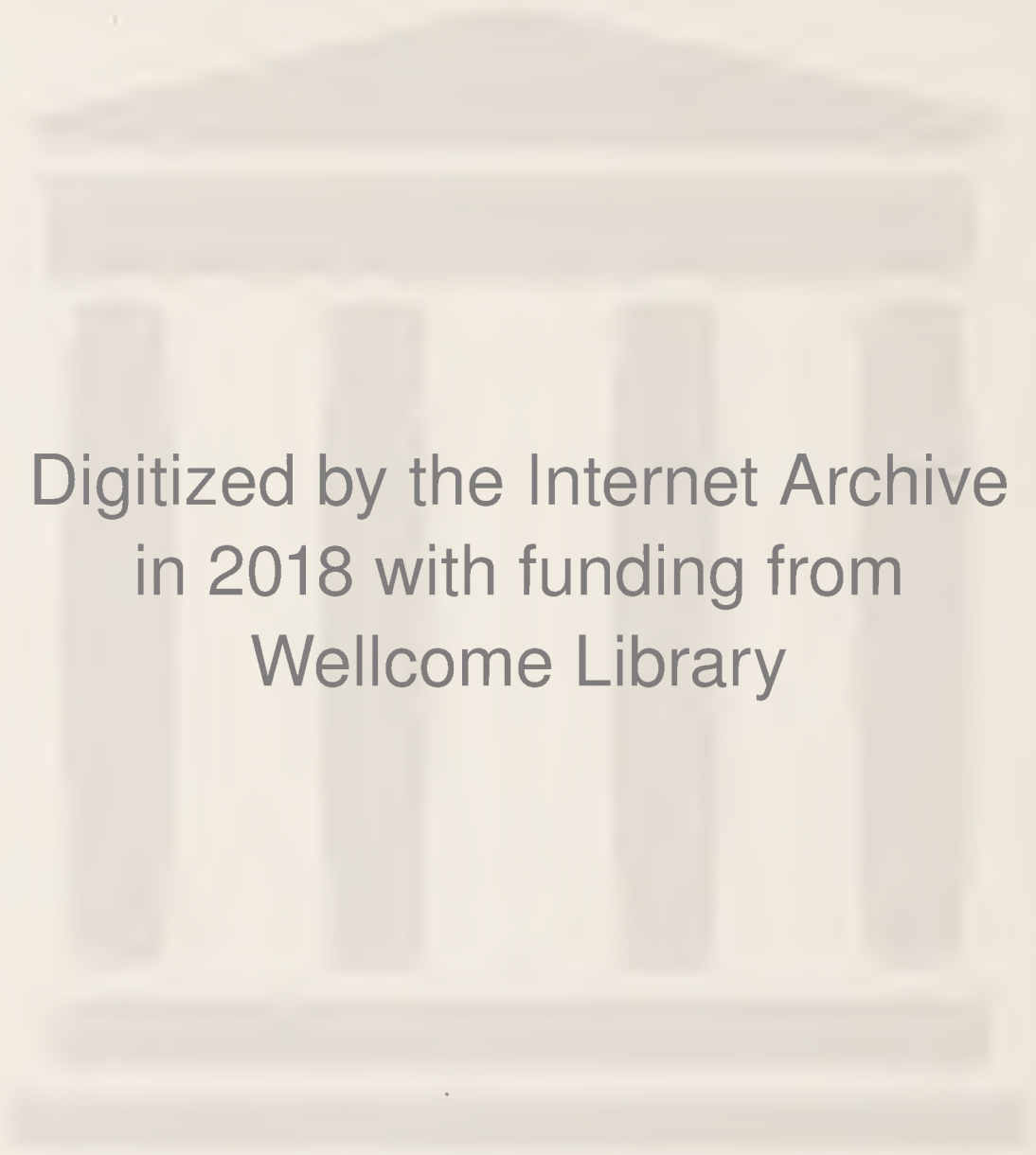


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# STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## *Public Health Committee 1953*

Chairman : Councillor S. B. Willerton.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor H. M. Justice.

### Councillors :

Mrs. D. M. Benen-Stock, Mr. G. Frewin, Mr. F. L. Gilbert, Mrs. G. E. Goodman, Mr. W. G. F. Goodman, Mr. C. Holder, Mr. R. A. Metcalf, Mr. C. L. Pengilly, Mr. L. Perrin, Mr. A. F. Petrie, Miss A. Phipps and Mrs. M. M. Webster.

### *Staff of the Public Health Department*

#### *Medical Officer of Health (part-time):*

L. A. MATHESON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.C.H., M.M.S.A.

#### *Senior Sanitary Inspector :*

JOHN MULLIN, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A., A.I.HSG. 1.2.4.6

#### *Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector :*

P. F. PACKHAM, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I. 1.2.3

#### *Sanitary Inspectors :*

G. A. EVANS, M.S.I.A., A.I.HSG. 1.2.6.7

R. E. SMITH, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.SAN.E. 1.2.3.4.5

#### *Senior Clerk and Shorthand Typist :*

MISS L. M. PERRYMAN.

#### *Assistant Clerk and Shorthand Typist :*

MISS J. E. LOCKYER.

#### *Assistant Rodent Officer :*

H. A. CROUCHER.

#### *Key to qualifications—*

1. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Joint Board.
2. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods.
3. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Smoke Inspector.
4. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science.
5. Certificate of the Institute of Sanitary Engineers.
6. Diploma of the Institute of Housing.
7. Diploma of Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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## THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS of the STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting this Annual Report for the year 1953 and would like to make the following comments.

### CARE OF THE AGED

The Council have expressed great interest and often concern in the care of the aged of this district. This department has made therefore, a close study of the many aspects of this problem which, because of the increase in the number of old people and greater age at death constitutes a considerable social problem and places a greater responsibility on yet more members of the younger population. The aged are helped by many organisations and in a variety of ways but there is considerable scope for personal service particularly for old people living alone. Old Peoples Welfare Committees and Darby and Joan Clubs meet a need and do valuable work.

The "Welfare State" shoulders a big burden in the care of the aged and the aged sick, and I would stress that no matter how admirable these arrangements may be (and they continue to be improved), nothing can take the place of the care and solicitude of the elderly folks by their own kith and kin. No instrument of administration can quite provide the real personal touch, the warmth and affection of their own relatives. I am often concerned to find this lacking in cases where it is most needed. What is needed is the family and good neighbour spirit one used to find.

### CIVIC EXHIBITION

The Council approved the holding of a Civic Exhibition in the Town Hall from September 29th to October 3rd. The exhibition was organised by the Council's Staff and was a great success, the number of visitors being approximately 10,000.

The Public Health Department had two twenty feet stands, the theme being prevention of illness and promotion of health. The stands showed several aspects of the work of the Department including food hygiene, Mass X-Ray, health education, smoke



abatement, clean milk production and pasteurisation, rodent control and insect pests.

Particular interest was shown in specimens of fresh meat condemned as unfit for human consumption.

The routine vigilance of the Sanitary Inspector is often taken for granted, but I think at this Exhibition the public were shown that they are well protected.

#### CLINIC

For a considerable period prior to 1953, the Chest Clinic at Bell Road, Hounslow, had suffered from insufficient accommodation to meet the needs of the large numbers of patients attending there. It was therefore with real pleasure that the Council learned of the opening of a new Chest Clinic at Ashford Hospital. This is a newly built and splendidly equipped separate unit in the hospital grounds. All cases requiring to see the Chest Physician from the Staines Urban District Council area have been seen there since the Clinic was opened in November, 1953. Patients now have a much shorter distance to travel, avoid crowded sessions and there is less waiting time.

#### INFANT DEATHS

Infant deaths under one year numbered 6. This is too small to be represented by a statistical figure, but shows a welcome decrease, and has reached a new low level. This figure would have been considered unattainable as recently as ten years ago.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

No serious outbreaks of infectious diseases occurred. There were 484 cases of measles but no deaths and few serious complications.

There were no cases of diphtheria but it should be remembered that the level of immunised children is still not high enough for complacency and we should aim at not less than 80% of children protected against this disease.

A new and more virulent form of diphtheria could still search out and attack the unprotected child with serious results, and such a possibility cannot be ignored.

#### HOUSING

The housing problem remains with us, but there is no doubt the worst period of shortage is over.

Priority for new houses is always given to relevant medical aspects of an application and detailed consideration given to all

such cases. Pulmonary tuberculosis figures prominently here and equally important is the protection of those at risk, i.e. young persons living in close contact with tubercular persons through overcrowded conditions. Where such cases are being considered a recommendation is made on medical grounds and the system of allocation of houses has been revised to give added priority.

This is good preventive medicine and has much to commend it.

MORTUARY

Detailed consideration was given to the utilization of the Staines Mortuary. A joint meeting with Twickenham, Feltham and Sunbury Councils and this Authority was held to discuss the provision of mortuary facilities, refrigeration and necessary attendants. Due consideration was given to the distances often to be travelled by relatives summoned to inquests. This matter is still under consideration.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the consideration shown to me by all members of the Council and of the co-operation of the officers and in particular to the staff of the Health Department who have continued their efforts to improve the housing and working conditions of the population.

I would particularly mention their efforts to raise the standard of food hygiene generally.

I have the honour to be, ladies and gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,  
LOUISE A. MATHESON.

General Statistics

Area—8,250 acres, including 405 acres of water.				
Population	...	...	...	40,170
Number of Inhabited Houses at 31.3.53	...	...	...	11,131
Rateable Value at 31.3.53	...	...	...	£408,251
Sum represented by a penny rate at 31.3.53	...	...	...	£1,635

Summary of Vital Statistics

<i>Live Births</i>				
		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	322	299	621
Illegitimate	...	19	12	31
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		341	311	652
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

<i>Birth Rate</i> (per thousand population)	...	...	16.23
Comparability factor is 0.96, giving a corrected birth rate of	...	...	15.58
Birth Rate England and Wales	...	...	15.5

#### *Still Births*

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
<i>Still Birth Rate</i> (per thousand population)		...	0.149
Still Birth Rate England Wales	...	...	0.35

#### *Deaths*

Male	...	200
Female	...	136
		<hr/> 336 <hr/>

<i>Death Rate</i> (per thousand population)	...	...	8.364
Comparability factor is 1.11, giving a corrected death rate of	...	...	9.284
Death Rate England and Wales	...	...	11.4
Death Rate Staines U.D.C., 1952	...	...	9.07
Deaths from Maternal Causes	...	...	nil
Infant Deaths under one year	...	...	6
Infant Mortality Rate under one year	...	...	9.20
(per thousand live births)			
Infant Mortality Rate England and Wales	...		26.8

### **Provision of Hospitals and Clinics in the Area During 1953**

#### *Hospitals :*

Ashford Hospital, London Road, Ashford.  
Staines Hospital, Kingston Road, Staines.

#### *Chest Clinic :*

Chest Clinic, Ashford Hospital, London Road, Ashford.

#### *Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, etc.:*

These are provided by the Middlesex County Council at the following addresses:



“ The Grange ”, Gresham Road, Staines.  
The Health Centre, Stanwell Road, Ashford.  
Laleham Village Hall, Laleham.  
Stanwell Village Hall, Stanwell.

### **National Assistance Act, 1948 Section 47**

No formal action was taken during the year under this Act to secure the removal to hospital of persons not receiving care and attention and incapable of looking after themselves. In one case, however, an old man living alone in one room in a house-let-in-lodgings was persuaded to accept residential accommodation prior to the house being demolished under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936.

The work of the District Nurses in this area, and the assistance and co-operation of the Area Welfare Officer in connection with the care of old people living alone should be recorded.

### **National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50**

Two burials were carried out under the provisions of Section 50 of the Act. The circumstances in one case were that a man died leaving his widow with no money and the Council accepted responsibility for arranging and paying for the funeral. In the other case, the only relative of the deceased living in the district was his fifteen years old daughter; the Council arranged for the funeral, but the expenses were subsequently recovered from a married daughter living in Scotland. One of the Department's staff attends the funeral services and interments, which are always well conducted.

### **Notifiable Diseases**

A chart showing the diseases notified in their age groups is appended.

### **Tuberculosis**

Twenty-six cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified and there were four deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis during the year. A chart showing the age and sex distribution of the notifications and deaths is appended.

### **Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949**

No action was necessary under Regulation 20 to prohibit the sale of milk suspected of causing disease.

### **Food Poisoning**

No outbreaks of food poisoning occurred during 1953, five unrelated cases being notified.

## Causes of Death

<i>Disease</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	...	...	...	3	1
Tuberculosis, other ...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Syphilitic disease ...	...	...	...	2	Nil
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Meningococcal infections ...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Acute poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Measles ...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	...	...	...	Nil	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	...	...	...	6	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	...	...	...	17	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	...	...	...	Nil	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	...	...	...	Nil	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	...	...	...	21	16
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	...	...	...	Nil	1
Diabetes ...	...	...	...	2	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	...	...	...	19	17
Coronary disease, angina ...	...	...	...	26	7
Hypertension with heart disease ...	...	...	...	4	6
Other heart disease ...	...	...	...	30	35
Other circulatory disease ...	...	...	...	7	6
Influenza ...	...	...	...	1	1
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	10	9
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	18	2
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	...	...	...	2	Nil
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	...	...	...	3	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	1	Nil
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	...	...	...	3	Nil
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	...	...	...	2	Nil
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Congenital malformations ...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	...	...	...	12	11
Motor vehicle accidents ...	...	...	...	6	2
All other accidents ...	...	...	...	4	4
Suicide ...	...	...	...	1	2
Homicide and operation of war ...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
				200	136

# INFANT DEATHS

	Total																					
	Under 1 day		1-6 days		1 week		2 weeks		3 weeks		under 1 month		1-2 months		3-5 months		6-8 months		9-11 months		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Prematurity	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Prematurity + Asphyxia		1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Acute Bronchitis		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Mongolism	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS		2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	3



## Infectious Diseases Notified during 1953

	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25 & Over	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	2	10	22	11	1	—	46
Whooping Cough	4	20	12	40	1	1	1	79
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	4
Measles ...	11	129	101	226	11	2	4	484
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Under 5 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65 & over	Total
Acute pneumonia ...	3	4	5	3	4	19
Dysentery ...	4	1	2	1	—	8
Acute encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	1	1	—	2
Meningococcal infection	1	—	—	—	—	1
Food poisoning ...	4	—	1	—	—	5

# TUBERCULOSIS

		NOTIFICATIONS				DEATHS			
Age		Pulm.		Non-Pulm.		Pulm.		Non-Pulm.	
Periods		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 — 4	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 14	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 24	...	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 34	...	4	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
35 — 44	...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 54	...	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 — 64	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 — 74	...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
75 — 84	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		18	8	—	—	3	1	—	—
		==	==	==	==	==	==	==	==

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# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Bridge Street,  
Staines.

June, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit this report on the eighth year of my service with your Council.

During 1953 a survey of the district was carried out to ascertain the number of houses unfit for habitation. This was done in anticipation of a renewal of the Council's activities in this aspect of housing, and although the area consists largely of houses erected during the present century there are an appreciable number of older houses in a poor state of repair and without modern amenities and these do require attention.

The problem of the repair of houses where there is insufficient rent income to enable owners to keep them in satisfactory condition remains, and I am not hopeful that the proposals in the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's publication "Houses—the next step" will achieve all that is desired in this connection. When these proposals become law they will ensure a minimum of repair to secure a rent increase but I cannot envisage voluntary reconditioning by owners of the older properties and I think it will be necessary to use the repair sections of the Housing Act.

Very few applications for improvement grants have been received since the Housing Act, 1949 empowered the Council to make such grants. The few enquiries were from owner-occupiers who were anxious to improve their own houses, and none from owners of older rented houses.

The rented houses lacking modern amenities such as baths and hot water supply are the houses the Act was mainly intended to improve. I do not believe the lack of applications was due to lack of knowledge of the grants available but because the conditions applied to the making of grants were not sufficiently attractive and there was insufficient financial inducement for an owner to improve his property. It is to be hoped that the revised conditions for making grants will prove more attractive and owners of rented houses will be prepared to co-operate.



Every house so reconditioned and improved and thereby prevented from falling into decay makes a valuable contribution towards overcoming the housing shortage.

The report to the Ministry of Health by the Working Party on recruitment, training and qualifications of Sanitary Inspectors was published during the year, and it is still under consideration by the Minister. The Working Party made exhaustive enquiries into the duties carried out by Sanitary Inspectors throughout the country and made a number of recommendations which will, if adopted, raise the status of the inspector, and provide a better trained entrant to the service.

In the report, there is a paragraph (106) which I reprint below:

“To sum up, a sanitary inspector is a local government officer whose duty it is to secure compliance with certain laws designed to protect the public health. To do this, he needs to have a good working knowledge—in many cases a detailed knowledge—of certain techniques and sciences. The number and variety of these is the outstanding feature of his work. Thus, while not himself practising medicine, architecture, engineering, or building, he must know something of all of them, and all this calls for a very special type of training. But first and last he is an executive officer, exercising control over the public in accordance with the law of the land, a control which often touches the pocket of the individual and could in wrong hands be very galling. It is here that the modern sanitary inspector has developed his own special skill over and above those he borrows from other callings. The public health code is a vast and complicated one and it is the sanitary inspector's function within his own field to translate it into terms intelligible to the common man and so enable him to see clearly what he must do and how he can do it with least inconvenience and expense. The sanitary inspector must needs be familiar with many trades but he must also be master of one—a most important one in a free community—that of interpreting the requirements of the law to the citizen and enlisting his willing co-operation.”

The latter part of this paragraph appeals to me since it expresses my own view on how a sanitary inspector should seek to carry out the duties placed upon him.

During the year I had the honour and pleasure of organising the Council's Civic Exhibition.

Mention of the Public Health Department's stand has been made by the Medical Officer of Health; all the exhibits staged by other Departments of the Council were of a high standard and

the fact that the exhibition was a success although costing the ratepayers very little, will I am sure, encourage your staff at a future date to promote a similar exhibition in an effort to widen the ratepayers' knowledge of the work of the Council.

I would like to record my appreciation of the consideration shown to me by the Council and of the co-operation of the Council's officers, and to express my thanks to all the staff of the Health Department for another year of conscientious attention to their duties.

I have the honour to be, ladies and gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN MULLIN.

### **Water**

Mains water is supplied to almost the whole of the area by the South-West Suburban Water Company; a few houses in Laleham are supplied by the West Surrey Water Company and a portion of Colnbrook by the Borough of Slough Water Company. The supplies continued to be satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

The water has no plumbo-solvent action, and there was no contamination during the year of pipe supplies. Regular samples for chemical analysis are taken by the Companies' Engineers, both of raw water and of treated water going into supply. Bacteriological examinations are also made by the Companies, and the Sanitary Inspectors take samples of mains water from domestic and business premises; these latter have all been reported satisfactory.

There remains 23 houses in the district having stand pipes for the supply of water. During 1953 none of the twenty-seven houses reported last year were demolished, but four have had a supply laid on to a tap inside the houses.

No action was taken during the year in respect of the houses within the London Airport, none of which has piped water inside; it is hoped that the tenants of these houses will receive priority for rehousing in the new estate being built at Stanwell, by arrangement with the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

The following is a copy of a report on a sample of water from the South-West Suburban Water Company's mains submitted for examination during 1953.

## Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance : clear and bright.

Colour	...	...	12	Turbidity	...	...	Nil
pH	...	...	7.6	Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	8
				Odour	...	...	Nil
Electric Conductivity	...	...	540	Total Solids	...	...	360
Chlorine present as				Alkalinity as			
	Chloride	...	30	Calcium Carbonate	...	...	220
Hardness: Total	250.	Carbonate	220.	Non-carbonate	...	...	30.
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	4.0	Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	0.000	Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	...	1.2
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	0.017	Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	Absent
Metals	Iron: less than	0.03	Other metals	...	...	...	absent.

## Bacteriological Results

Number of Colonies { 1 day at 37°C. 2 days at 37°C. 3 days at 20°C.  
developing on Agar { 1 per ml. 2 per ml. 3 per ml.

	<i>Present in</i>	<i>Absent from</i>	<i>Probable number</i>
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction ...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli. (Type 1) ...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ...	100 ml.	10 ml.	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

## Drainage and Sewerage

Sewage is treated at the West Middlesex Drainage Works at Mogden.

In response to the Council's application for loan sanction, a Ministerial Enquiry was held during 1953 as a result of which it is hoped to commence work on new sewerage schemes for Staines and Stanwell during 1955. During the year, a short length of the rising main in connection with the Stanwell scheme was laid in private ground at the same time as a gas main was being laid.



The provision of main drainage in the Stanwell area is an improvement long overdue, and the development of the trading estate at Poyle adds considerably to the need for an efficient means of sewage disposal. The Staines scheme will afford sewerage facilities to a number of post-war and riverside houses which at present are drained to cesspools; it will also reduce the number of ejectors required to lift the existing flow. These ejectors are now fifty to sixty years old and give constant trouble throughout the Staines area.

The two schemes when completed will represent a major public health improvement in the area.

The Council agreed in November, 1953, to the inauguration of a further scheme of assistance for owners of property drained to cesspools to connect the drains to the sewer where one was available. The provision of a water-carriage system of sewage disposal is probably the largest single public health achievement; it is difficult to understand the reluctance of some owners of property to avail themselves of the facilities available.

There are now less than one hundred houses in the Urban District using cesspools when a sewer is available to serve the property. The Council has offered to all the owners concerned the facility of paying for the work to be done over a period of years, but many property owners refuse to co-operate in this matter. There is need for more general application of powers granted to some Local Authorities to require connections of existing houses to the sewer when one is available. There is no doubt the use of cesspools in closely built-up residential areas is a potential danger to public health.

Twenty-five cesspools were abolished during the year, bringing the total number abolished since the enlargement of the area in 1930 and 1934 and the extension of main drainage to the added areas in 1936, to 4,613.

**Summary of Housing and Sanitary Inspections**

*Housing :*

Housing Act, 1936, Section 9 :—					
Inspections	...	...	...	...	1
Reinspections	...	...	...	...	61
Housing Act, 1936, Section 11 :—					
Inspections	...	...	...	...	242
Reinspections	...	...	...	...	129
Housing Act, 1936, Section 12 :—					
Inspections	...	...	...	...	1
Reinspections	...	...	...	...	39

Public Health Act, 1936:—

Inspections	...	...	...	...	533	
Reinspections	...	...	...	...	1431	
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	24	
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	203	
					—	2664

*General :*

Massage and Chiropody Premises	...	...	...	...	5	
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	248	
Drainage Works	...	...	...	...	507	
Drain Testing	...	...	...	...	100	
Heating Appliances (Fireguards)	Regns., 1953				15	
Factories and Outworkers	...	...	...	...	216	
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	60	
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	190	
Vermin	...	...	...	...	174	
Keeping of Animals and Poultry	...	...	...	...	73	
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	121	
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	130	
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	1077	
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	76	
Caravans	...	...	...	...	337	
Places of Public Entertainment	...	...	...	...	34	
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	143	
Hawkers	...	...	...	...	83	
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	34	
Schools	...	...	...	...	33	
River Pollution	...	...	...	...	38	
Refuse Deposits	...	...	...	...	123	
Hairdressers	...	...	...	...	21	
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	93	
					—	3931
						6595

*Number of Notices Served :*

			<i>Informal</i>	<i>Formal</i>
Housing Act, 1936, Section 9	...	...	1	1
Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	220	61
Shops Act, 1950	...	...	5	—
Food & Drugs Act, 1938	...	...	19	—
			—	—
			245	62

## Complaints :

376 complaints were received during the year; these mainly concerned repairs to dwelling houses.

### Works completed—Nuisances abated, etc.

Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	53
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	57
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	27
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	63
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	29
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	48
General internal repairs	...	...	...	...	16
General external repairs	...	...	...	...	19
Cesspools cleansed (Statutory Notice)	...	...	...	...	4
Rainwater gutters and pipes	...	...	...	...	42
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	13
Yard paving repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Fire grates repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	12
Verminous premises cleansed	...	...	...	...	6
Pail closet supplied	...	...	...	...	1
Domestic chimneys—nuisance abated	...	...	...	...	10
Drains—new, repaired, cleared, etc.	...	...	...	...	28
W.C.s and fittings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	34
Waste pipes, new or repaired	...	...	...	...	18
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	25
Houses provided with additional water supply and sinks	...	...	...	...	4
Accumulations of rubbish removed	...	...	...	...	12
Land cleared in connection with rat infestation	...	...	...	...	2
Premises made rat-proof	...	...	...	...	2
New sinks	...	...	...	...	1
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	1
Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	4
Additional W.C.s provided	...	...	...	...	5
Accumulations of manure	...	...	...	...	1
Houses painted	...	...	...	...	2
Hot water boiler	...	...	...	...	1

## Housing Statistics

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—
  - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 845
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 2437
  - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... —
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose —
  - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 19
  - (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 289
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—
 

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 142
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—
  - (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Acts, 1936:—
    - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 1
    - (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—
      - (a) By owners ... 2
      - (b) By local authority in default of owners 1
  - (b) Proceedings under Public Health Act:—
    - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 192
    - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
      - (a) By owners ... 75
      - (b) By local authority in default of owners 3



(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	17
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	12
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made ...	2
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	—

### Overcrowding

Two statutorily overcrowded families were rehoused by the Council and there are twenty-eight families totalling two hundred and fourteen persons who are statutorily overcrowded. This represents 0.25% of the houses in the area. These figures indicate that since 1952, fifteen statutorily overcrowded families have left the district or have found alternative accommodation for themselves. This is a sign of the slightly easier housing situation in the Urban District.

## Factories Act, 1937

### Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

(Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Number of written notices</i>	<i>Occupier prosecuted</i>
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by L.A.s ...	12	5	—	—
2. Factories not included in 1, in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. ...	221	191	7	1
3. Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	2	2	—	—
TOTALS	<u>235</u>	<u>198</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>

### Cases in which Defects Were Found

	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>Number of cases in which prose- cutions were In- stituted</i>
Want of cleanliness (S.1) —	—	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ... —	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3) —	—	—	—	—	—
Inad. Vent'n. (S.4) ... —	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffect. drainage of floors (S.6) —	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):—					
(a) insufficient ... 4	4	5	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective 17	17	6	—	2	1
(c) not separate for sexes 15	15	1	—	1	—
Other offences, not includ- ing offences relating to Homework) ... —	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	<u>36</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>

#### Outworkers :

There are nine out-workers in the Area, nearly all making wearing apparel.

## Legal Proceedings

### *Housing Act, 1936 :*

The tenant of a large house was fined £2 for using and £4 for permitting to be used, underground rooms in the house which were the subject of a Closing Order. The Subtenant was fined £2 for using the rooms. An appeal against this conviction at the Middlesex Quarter Sessions was dismissed, the Council being awarded costs.

A similar case in regard to another house was adjourned.

### *Factories Act, 1937, Section 7 :*

A case taken against the Management of a factory where the sanitary accommodation was defective and badly maintained resulted in a fine of £5.

### *Middlesex County Council Act, 1944 and 1950, and Staines Council Byelaws :*

Summonses were taken out against the occupiers of two caravans situated in the gardens of private houses; each defendant was fined £2 for occupying a caravan without the consent of the Council.

Legal action was taken in two cases under Section 11 of the 1950 Act. In one case a hawker of vegetables was fined £1 for storage of food in unregistered premises; in the other case a fine of 10s. was imposed on each of two summonses for selling green-grocery when not registered and for using unregistered premises for storing food.

Both the proprietor of an ice-cream business and his roundsman were each fined £1 for failing to be registered under Section 11 of the 1950 Act; in addition they were each fined £1 for selling food on the grass verge by the river at Laleham Park contrary to the Council's byelaws.

A similar case relating to an offence under the byelaws by another ice-cream trader was adjourned sine die.





*Examples of houses unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable expense which were demolished during 1953*



## Unfit Houses

1953 was the first year since the end of the last war when it was felt possible and equitable to allocate a proportion of the Council houses for the purpose of rehousing families living in property unfit for human habitation. Accordingly, during the year a total of seventeen Demolition Orders were made and twelve of the houses were demolished.

A preliminary survey of unfit houses in the area has been made, which indicates that during the next five years a total of ninety-three houses should be demolished as unfit for human habitation. A further estimate of one hundred and twenty five during the succeeding five years and of one hundred and fifty-four in the next five year period, was conditional upon the implementation of pending legislation on the lines of the Government's White Paper on housing policy.

Such legislation envisages a wider use being made of the provisions in existing legislation for improving property, and of easing the conditions for grants. There is no doubt that if the scope of affording assistance to owners of property is widened, and the terms improved, then probably some two hundred of the houses surveyed and provisionally placed in the second and third categories could be saved from demolition and brought up to a good standard of comfort and modern amenity.

It is hoped that this constructive policy will prevail; from a public health point of view houses which for many years have been unfit by reason of darkness, dampness and lack of essential amenities cannot much longer be tolerated. They must either be improved to a reasonable standard, or be demolished to make room for the development of new houses.

## Inspection and Supervision of Food

### *Food Premises :*

					<i>No. of Inspections</i>
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	17
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	106
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	20
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	133
Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	...	...	182
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	619
					<hr/> 1,077 <hr/>

		<i>Butchers</i>	<i>Kitchens</i>	<i>Other food premises</i>
Premises cleansed	...	2	2	3
Ventilation provided	...	—	—	—
Hot water supply provided	...	—	1	5
Floors and walls cleansed	...	3	5	5
Lighting improved	...	—	—	—
Counter screens	...	1	—	—
New sanitary accommodation etc.	... ..	—	—	1

The following foods, examined by your Inspectors in the various types of food premises, were surrendered as unfit for human consumption :—

2272 canned foods	8 stone dog fish
10 lbs. Australian mutton	42 lbs. skate
20 lbs. lamb	96 lbs. cheese
1695 lbs. beef (English and imported)	10 packets savoury straws
2 calves (83 lbs.)	28 lbs. dried peas
1 pig	13 lbs. patent barley
1 pig's head (16 lbs.)	30 lbs. rice
3 pigs' plucks	20 lbs. currants
57 lbs. pork	150 lbs. raisins
60 lbs. gammon	42 lbs. desiccated coconut
1037 lbs. bacon and ham	112 lbs. coconut ice
4 lbs. Danish pork luncheon meat	16 lbs. soyghetti
203 lbs. beef sausages	36 lbs. spaghetti
129 lbs. pork sausages	4 lbs. dried figs
30 lbs. fish roe	8 lbs. dates
6 stone plaice	86 chocolate cream Swiss rolls
14 lbs. smoked cod fillets	4 lbs. slab cake
	30 chocolate teacakes
	18 lbs. salt

### *Food and Drugs Act, 1938*

I am indebted to the Chief Officer, Public Control Department, Middlesex County Council, for the following report on duties under the Food and Drugs Act carried out by his Department:—

“ During the year 1953, within the Urban District of Staines, 18 samples, of which one was of milk, were submitted to the Public Analyst under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and each of the 18 samples was reported upon as satisfactory.

“ In addition, 221 samples were examined or tested by officers of my department. Of these 118 were milk and the only unsatisfactory sample was one of new milk which was slightly deficient in fat. Samples from three associated churns at the same time were of good quality and no further action was taken.

“ In addition, 221 samples were examined or tested by officers of district by my Council, in pursuance of its powers as Food and Drugs Authority, included the following.

“ *Merchandise Marks Act, 1887-1926, and Imported Food Orders made thereunder.* 234 visits to premises were made to inspect the labelling of foodstuffs with indications of origin as prescribed by the 1926 Act and Orders made thereunder. In all 2,023 pieces, heads or stacks of meat, salmon, poultry, apples, tomatoes, dried fruit and butter were examined and from this work, apart from such advice and verbal cautions as were given by the Inspectors on their visits, two cases were reported to my Council. One greengrocer received an official caution in respect of a display of Guernsey tomatoes marked ‘English’, contrary to the 1887 Act, and he was also cautioned for a stack of imported tomatoes not marked with an indication of origin. Another fruiterer-greengrocer was prosecuted in respect of imported tomatoes not marked with an indication of origin and he was fined £2 with £5 5s. 0d. costs.

“ *Labelling of Food Order, 1953* : 27 visits to premises were made and 161 different articles were examined in all with respect to compliance with the above Order which requires, in general, that prepacked foods shall have a correct statement of ingredients marked on the container and also the name and address of packer and manufacturer. No infringements of a substantial nature arose.

“ *Milk (Special Designation) Regulations.* During the year under review there was one licence granted by my Council to a dealer/processor of milk in your area. The premises were regularly inspected and 50 samples were procured, each of which passed the methylene blue and phosphatase tests prescribed.”

None of the Boroughs or Urban Districts in Middlesex acts as a Food and Drugs Authority under Section 64 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the work of sampling being carried out by Officers of the Middlesex County Council. The Staines Urban District Council, together with four other districts, has requested designation as a Food and Drugs Authority.

It is considered that the work of sampling foodstuffs for quality and quantitative standards is essentially a part of the local public health service, and should be carried out by Sanitary Inspectors who not only have qualifications to inspect meat and all other foods, but also have an intimate knowledge from their other duties of all local shops and can keep a daily watch on the foods



displayed. It is contended that this service to the public loses considerable value from being centrally rather than locally administered.

#### *Food Byelaws :*

The Clean Food Byelaws have now been in operation in the District since July, 1950, and whilst they cannot be considered ideal, they are extremely useful in conjunction with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, in ensuring that food premises are maintained to a reasonable standard of cleanliness.

Certain phrases in the byelaws, such as “clean as often as may be reasonably necessary” and “take all steps as may be reasonably necessary” allow of different interpretations by the Sanitary Inspector and the food handler. This presents no difficulty in the case of the majority of managements and workers who are intelligent, conscientious and co-operative, but there remains a hard-core of a few individuals who are ignorant, or deliberately hostile to reasonable persuasion.

As an instance, a firm of multiple grocers, instead of installing gas heaters or similar means of providing constant hot water, insist on the use of kettle and gas ring which satisfies the letter but not the spirit of the law. The method they employ is inconvenient, of small practical use, and undoubtedly more expensive, yet no persuasion will avail in securing any change. The shops are well patronised and do a flourishing business and the cost of installation of water-heating appliances will mean little to the firm.

In the Ashford area this firm's shop is the only food shop in the area without constant hot water; in the Staines area, theirs is one of only two.

Vehicles used for the delivery and sale of food are well catered for in the byelaws, but it is regretted that whilst food shops are required to have a supply of hot water, vendors of food, particularly greengrocery, from vehicles are exempt from the requirement. However, all vehicles for the sale of ice-cream trading in the District have some means of hot water supply provided, and generally are very satisfactory.

As regards stalls, the Staines Market which is held on Wednesday and Saturday of each week, has normally four vendors of food, and the control of these by the byelaws appears quite adequate.

#### *Middlesex County Council Act, 1950, Section 11 :*

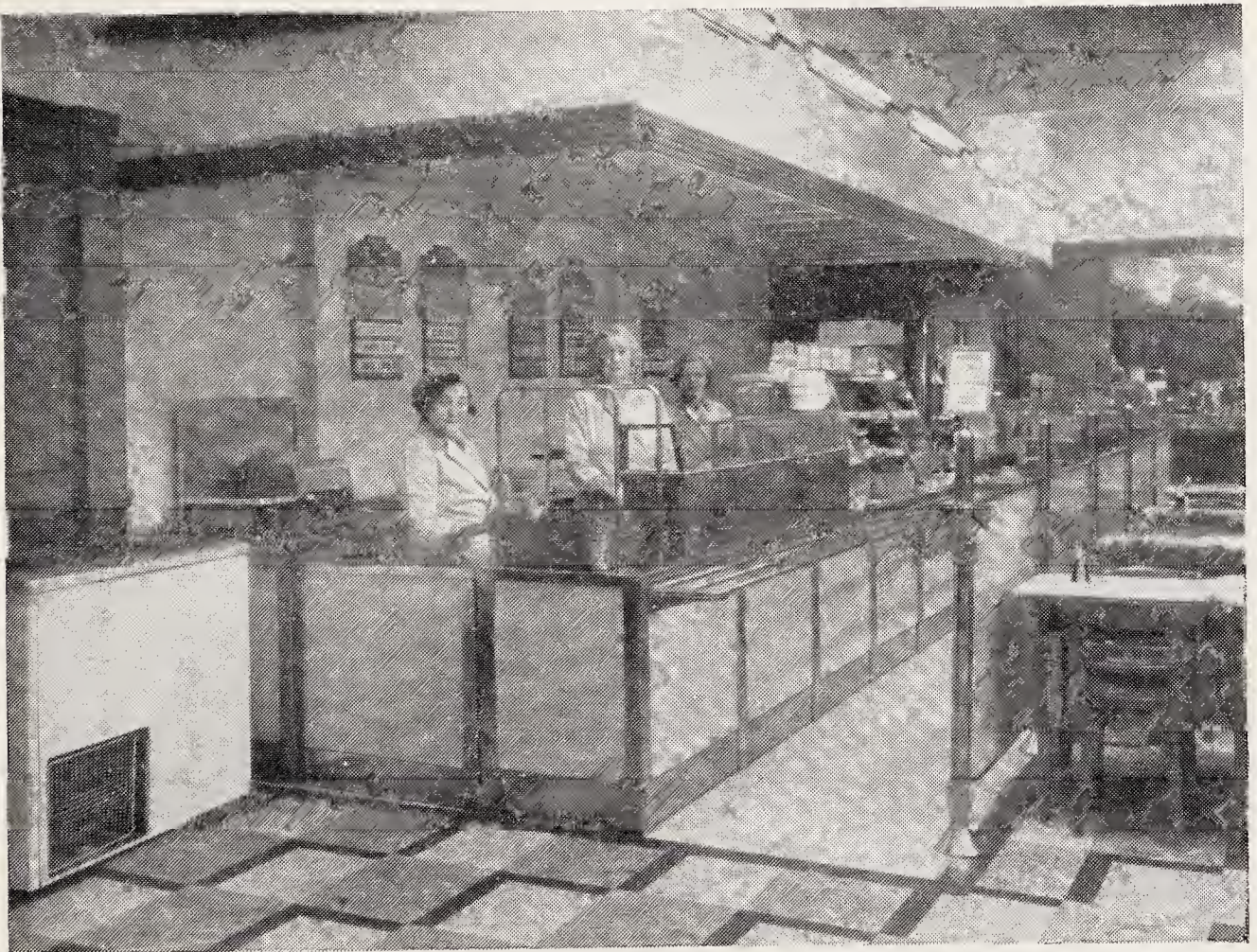
Under this Act, hawkers of food are required to be registered with the Council, as are the premises where their food is stored. During the year twelve applications were received in respect of personal registration, but none in respect of premises.

Three prosecutions were instituted under the provisions of this section, details of which are recorded elsewhere in the report.





*The kitchen of a factory canteen, showing gas stoves and steamers located in centre for ease of cleaning, tiled floor and walls tiled to a height of five feet*

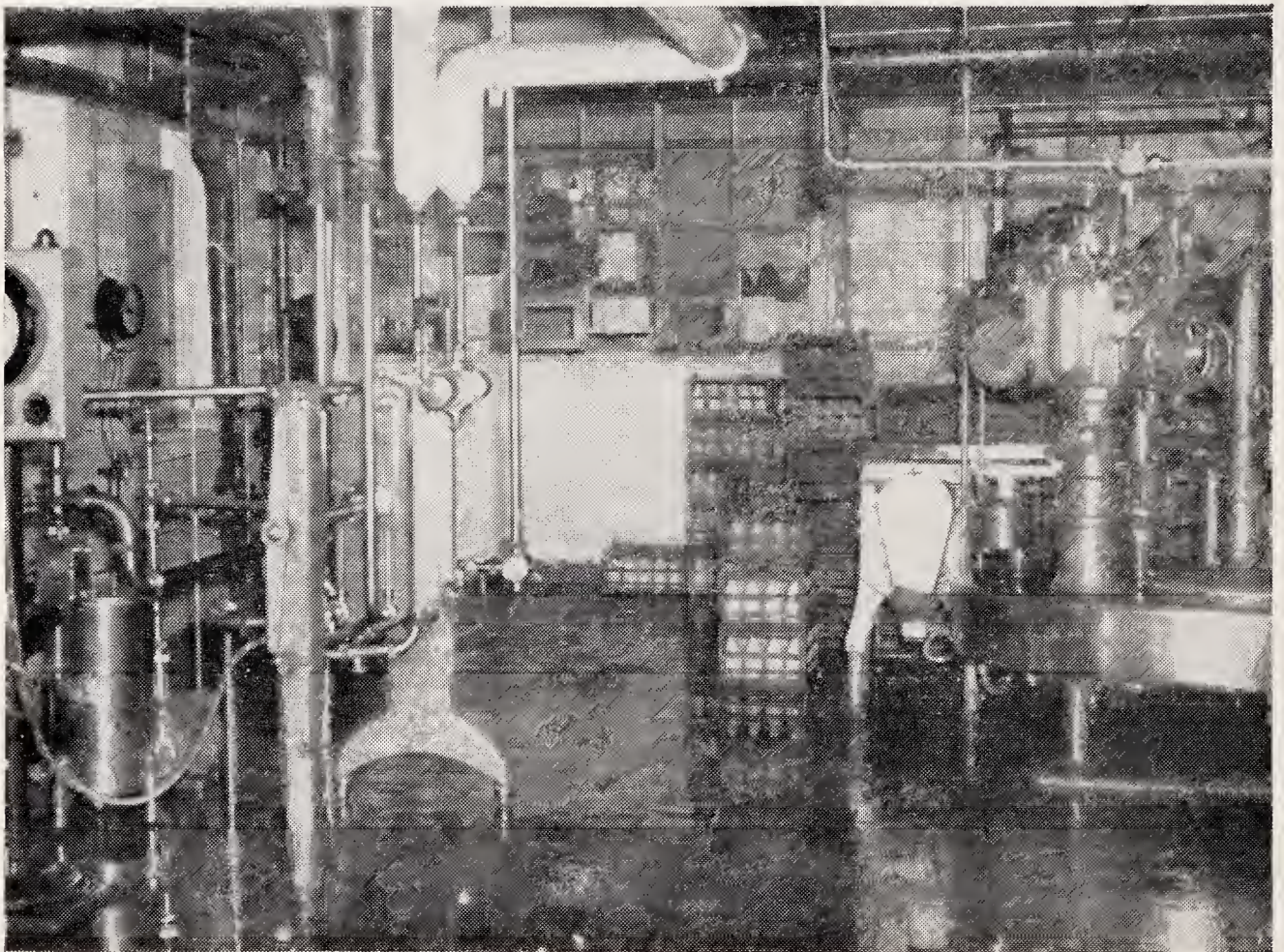


*A new "self-service" bar in a restaurant, illustrating protection afforded to food. Floor and walls are tiled and overhead ventilation ducts remove steam*





*A butcher's shop, showing the protection afforded by glass counter-screens to the preserved meats and sausages*



*A milk pasteurisation plant, showing the "High Temperature-Short Time" Pasteuriser on the left and the bottling machine on the right*



## *Clean Food Campaign :*

In Circular 1/54 the Ministry of Health call for details under headings listed below :—

### 1. *Number of food premises in the area, by type.*

Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	28
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	84
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	32
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	39
Off-Licences	...	...	...	...	...	8
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	14
Sweets and Tobacco	...	...	...	...	...	39
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	38
Wet and Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	...	14
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	6
Wholesale warehouses	...	...	...	...	...	3
Works Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	6
School kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	15
Ice Cream Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Mineral Water Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	1
TOTAL						328

### 2. *The number of food premises, by type, registered under*

#### (i) *Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.*

(a) Ice Cream Manufacturer	...	...	1
(b) Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	118
(c) Sausage Manufacturers	...	...	19
(d) Fish Friers	...	...	7

#### (ii) *Section 11 of the Middlesex County Council Act, 1950.*

(a) Personal registration of Hawkers	...	39
(b) Registration of Hawkers' Premises where food is stored	...	13

#### (iii) *Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949*

...	...	6
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### 3. *The number of inspections of registered food premises with informative comment.*

A total of 1,077 visits were made to all food premises by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year. This indicates that an average of slightly more than three visits were made to each one. It is the practice to have all food premises on a card-index system and details of inspections are recorded there.

Comment on the result of such visits, of the operation of the Food Byelaws and allied subjects are found elsewhere in this Annual Report.

4. *Any new educational activity (e.g. inauguration of clean food guilds or of lectures on food hygiene) and the progress of established educational activity.*

As indicated elsewhere in this Report, the Civic Exhibition gave prominence to the Clean Food Campaign; the exhibition was seen by approximately 10,000 visitors. This followed last year's issue of 20,000 book markers through the public libraries, stressing the importance of hygienic methods of storing and handling food.

Formal lectures to food handlers have been attempted in the past with disappointing results; the traders are reluctant to send staff during working hours, and employees are loath to attend in their free time. Indeed many of the shop assistants particularly are married women working sometimes part-time, and do not in fact have the spare time to attend lectures. Accordingly, as has been stated in previous reports, the Sanitary Inspectors carry out propaganda in the shops, cafes, canteens and other food premises, demonstrate good practices and discourage bad. It is pleasant to record a marked and increasing standard, with owners of premises carrying out voluntary structural improvements to premises where necessary.

In this district it is considered that this method of propaganda best serves the need of the numerous but generally small establishments which exist. The formation of a clean food guild has been considered, but would not it is thought be altogether appropriate or desirable.

5. *The method of disposal of condemned food.*

The ready accessibility of Smithfield Animal Products Ltd., provides a most satisfactory means of disposal of all condemned meat from shops and slaughter houses in the area. The firm manufactures fertilisers and animal feeding stuffs. They will also accept tinned meat and ham for such processing.

Canned foods are punctured and taken by the Council's Cleansing Department's vans to a refuse tip where they are buried on the same day as they are tipped. In 1954 it is hoped that a new destructor plant will be in operation which this Council will share; at that time, all condemned foods not taken to Smithfield Animal Products Ltd., will be disposed of at the destructor.

6. *Where special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been necessary, the total quantity, as well as the quantity condemned.*

No such special examination has been necessary during 1953. An itemised list of the food condemned is given elsewhere in the Report.

Samples of various types of foods were taken for bacteriological examination. The most disturbing results were in respect of



artificial cream, samples of which were taken either from bake-houses where it was being used, or in cream cakes purchased from shops or bakers' roundsmen.

Artificial cream is a most suitable medium for the growth of organisms and none of the samples taken has proved sterile. The organisms found have almost invariably been harmless air-borne organisms, but there is no doubt that careless handling of this preparation by an infected person could have serious results and it cannot be too strongly urged that legislation should control artificial cream at least as stringently as ice-cream.

Swabs were also taken of washed crockery and cutlery; this was primarily for educative purposes to demonstrate good and bad methods of washing-up to cafe proprietors and their staffs.

During the year inspections were made of the kitchens of all the private schools where meals are served to children, as a result of which extensive repairs and renovations were carried out at one school, and redecoration at others.

A new building has been erected on the Poyle Trading Estate by a multiple firm of bacon and ham curers and wholesale grocers. This building was to replace a temporary wooden structure erected several years ago. The new building is modern in design and a considerable amount of thought has been given to the hygienic handling of food. The bacon and ham preparation rooms are tiled from floor to ceiling and the floors are constructed of granolithic concrete; all work tables are also formed of this material. The warehouse portion is adequately provided with racks for the hygienic storage of foodstuffs. There are also modern offices, garages and several blocks of sanitary conveniences. There are adequate washing facilities and a hot water supply throughout the building, and the conditions which exist are far superior to those which were possible in the structure now replaced.

A new kitchen has been constructed for the works canteen at a large factory to replace the old kitchen, which was small and generally unsatisfactory. The new kitchen is spacious, modern and well equipped, and the canteen accommodates some five hundred people.

A new self-service bar was opened at one of the larger cafes in Staines. The work was carried out as a result of suggestions by the Public Health Department, and has resulted in improved service to the customers by way of convenience and hygiene, and has in addition resulted in a larger working area in the kitchen which was previously somewhat congested, and is now of ample size to deal with the trade at this branch. The new service bar is constructed on modern lines and appropriate portions of it are steam heated and refrigerated. The plans were discussed

with the Department prior to their being carried out. At the same time, the furniture was completely renewed, the new plastic materials being used for table tops, and new cutlery and crockery supplied.

Several complaints were received during the year regarding foreign matter found in food, amongst which may be instanced a small brass ring in a loaf of bread, a tin of plums containing a leaf and an earwig, wine gums containing a horsehair and butter containing a rat's tail. All these cases were carefully investigated, but it was unnecessary in some cases and impossible in another for legal proceedings to be instituted.

*Milk and Dairies Regulations :*

This district forms part of an area in which only heat-treated or designated milk is allowed to be sold. The Sanitary Inspectors take regular samples of milk to ensure that heat treatment has been efficiently carried out, and during the year 25 samples were taken, all of which were satisfactory.

There is one dairy in the district which pasteurises milk, and during the year improvements to the structure were completed, and a new cold room was built.

The Public Health Committee were again deeply concerned by the number of complaints received of dirty milk bottles delivered to customers. It was found upon close investigation of the cause, that the firm primarily concerned is in fact taking all possible precautions to avoid this nuisance.

*Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations :*

Manufacture and sale of ice-cream continued to receive attention. The majority of the ice-cream sold in the district is made by large manufacturers. 118 premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, 12 new dealers being registered during the year.

55 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Area Public Health Laboratory at Epsom for examination by the Methylene Blue Test, and the table shows that the quality continued to improve.

		<i>Nos. of samples</i>	<i>% placed in Grades 1 and 2</i>	<i>% placed in Grades 3 and 4</i>
1947	...	51	56.9	43.1
1948	...	120	76.7	23.3
1949	...	150	80.7	19.3
1950	...	166	83.5	16.5
1951	...	88	87.5	12.5
1952	...	69	91.3	8.7
1953	...	55	92.7	7.3



It will be seen that in 1947 56.9% samples were placed in Grades 1 or 2, whereas by 1953 this had risen to 92.7%

The grading is according to the standard recommended by the Ministry of Health, the methylene blue test being an indication of the bacteriological cleanliness. Ice-cream manufactured and served under hygienic conditions should fall in Grades 1 or 2 and good makers have no difficulty in maintaining this standard.

133 visits were made to premises where ice-cream is either made or sold, and your inspectors checked storage temperatures and advised retailers on clean methods of serving and handling ice-cream. Inspections were made of vendors selling ice-cream from tricycles and vehicles; these are advised to sell pre-packed ice-cream.

### *Ice Lollies*

Following some research work done at Liverpool, which disclosed that some ice lollies were contaminated by metal, samples were taken for chemical analysis of all types of lollies sold in this district. Many are made in refrigerators by the retailers themselves. Only one sample was found to be so contaminated and investigation by the Sanitary Inspector of the district where it was manufactured disclosed that the tinning of the moulds in which the lollies were made had worn. These moulds were renewed and there has been no further trouble.

A further sample of another make also manufactured outside the district was brought in by a customer for analysis. It contained lead, copper and zinc in the proportions 1, 0.8 and 4 parts per million respectively and a large amount of calcium chloride. In this case, the District Council concerned investigated the plant and again found worn moulds, and the brine for freezing had contaminated the ice lollie mixture. Conditions were corrected at the factory.

A check on these products will be continued, as some children are allowed eat several lollies in one day and the amount of lead ingested may be considerable and over a period dangerous, as lead is a cumulative poison.

### *Inspection of Meat*

During the year 39 pigs were inspected at a private slaughter-house under Ministry of Food permit for private individuals, chiefly during the Christmas period. All were found satisfactory but three pigs' plucks were surrendered as being unfit for human consumption.

During 1954, the Government control of meat is expected to be removed and no doubt a number of private slaughterhouses will apply for licensing. Most of those suitable will require considerable alterations to conform to present day standards of hygiene before licences are issued. There will certainly be no return to the number used before the war, which was eleven within the Urban District.

It is felt that with the return to private enterprise, the carcasses will be dressed better, and that the amount of meat condemned because of internal decomposition should be drastically reduced. In 1953, the Sanitary Inspectors condemned 1,695 lbs. of beef at butchers' shops, principally prime quality home-killed, a fact which is to be deplored, as with more care at the slaughterhouse and in transit, it could have been avoided.

In February, 1953, new recommendations for meat inspection were brought out to supersede the existing Memorandum made in 1922. Whilst these recommendations have no legal power, they are a guide for all meat inspectors so that some uniformity of inspection can be achieved throughout the country. The new Memorandum is based on the report of the Government Inter-departmental Committee on Meat Inspection. Modifications are made in matters to safeguard public health particularly as regards animals which are diseased or suffering from an infective condition.

As to whether the requirements of the Memorandum should be given legal backing is a matter of controversy, but it would appear that to cover every condition would involve too complex and intricate regulations. In the present circumstances, the individual meat inspector can judge each case on its merits without being bound by the letter of the law. For this reason, it is essential that meat inspection should remain a function of an impartial body, such as a Local Authority, to be carried out by Sanitary Inspectors qualified by examination for the work.

### *Meat Transport*

It is regretted that no improvement can be recorded in the design of vehicles used in the area for delivery of meat, which remain generally unsatisfactory both from the point of view of hygiene and of maintaining the meat in good saleable condition.



## Offensive Trades

On the 1st May, 1953, there came into force in this area Byelaws made under Section 108 of the Public Health Act, 1936, to control Offensive Trades, businesses or manufactures and the trade of fish frying. These byelaws give greater control over this type of trade than is possible where byelaws are not in force and they are most welcome. The byelaws deal with such matters as the frequency with which the cleansing of the premises must be carried out; the keeping in good repair of the premises and apparatus used therein; the manner in which raw materials are to be kept prior to processing, and generally for the carrying out of the trades in a satisfactory manner.

In this area there is a factory which carries out, amongst other things, the processing of condemned meat and offals. These premises come within the control of sections 107 and 108 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and are subject to very frequent inspection by the Sanitary Inspectors.

A most serious infestation of bluebottles occurred at these works during a warm and sunny period early in September, 1953. Because of heavy killings at slaughterhouses, the firm had been obliged to receive much greater quantities of raw condemned meat and offals than there was accommodation for in the normal store. The raw meat, etc., had become infested with eggs of the blowfly at the slaughterhouses and as these materials were exposed to the sun for several days the eggs quickly completed the life cycle and invaded the houses from where the complaints arose. Although the firm obtained a spraying machine and a supply of liquid insecticide, they were unable to control the infestation and it was necessary to call in a firm of insect pests eradicators. By using sufficient staff this firm were able to bring an end to the infestation.

The general structure of the factory has been greatly improved by the replacement of the exterior sheet metal walls which had become rusted away, with walls of concrete blocks finished with a light coloured surface.

Warnings were given on several occasions to Rag and Bone dealers who were found by the Sanitary Inspectors to be exchanging rags for toys to children under 14 years of age in contravention of Section 154 of the Public Health Act, 1936. In all cases these dealers pleaded ignorance of the law and they were informed that if they were found committing the same offence again, proceedings would be instituted against them.

## Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The Council employs an Assistant Rodent Officer who is provided with an 8 h.p. van to enable him to transport his equipment, baits and poisons and to cover the whole district of over 8,000 acres efficiently. Treatment is carried out free at private houses and, as in former years, the majority of the infestations dealt with are connected with the keeping of domestic poultry or of pig-breeding. Ten informal and four formal notices were served under the Act requiring the execution of work to remove harbourage for rats.

Test baiting of the Council's sewers again showed that they were almost free from rat infestation.

The following is a summary of inspections, etc., carried out by the Assistant Rodent Officer :

Number of properties inspected	...	...	1115
Number of properties found to be infested by rats	...	...	355
Number of dwelling houses treated	...	...	378
Number of business premises treated.	...	...	58
Total number of visits	...	...	4398

The Council has also dealt during the year with wasps' nests, mosquito breeding on ponds, ants in private houses and hospitals, bed-bug infestations, wood boring insects, and other domestic insect pests. The advice of the Sanitary Inspectors is frequently sought by people in the area to identify and recommend treatment for eradication of many different kinds of insect pests.

The plague of chironomids from the reservoir in Stanwell during the summer months continued to engage the attention of this Council and of the Metropolitan Water Board, and though remedial measures were taken, the answer to the problem of how best to tackle this most serious nuisance has not been found. Investigations are continuing in the hope of discovering an efficient and safe method of control.

In 1953 the Council received a request from Ashford Hospital to undertake the work of destruction of rats and mice in the hospital grounds. It is not the policy of the Council to undertake Contract work, as it reduces the time available for general inspection and control. Accordingly, the hospital Authorities were advised to place a contract with a private firm.

It remains the prerogative of the Council to see that premises are free of rats, and the Sanitary Inspectors and Assistant Rodent Officer work in conjunction with private companies where necessary. These companies are generally quite efficient and invariably co-operative.



The stands for the Civic Exhibition, of which mention has been made elsewhere in the Report, were provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who themselves provided and staffed a most ingeniously contrived stand illustrating the dangers of, and damage caused by rats, mice and various insect pests. The active and able co-operation of the Ministry in the exhibition was greatly appreciated.

### **Refuse**

The collection and disposal of domestic refuse within the Urban District is dealt with by the Engineer and Surveyor. Refuse is tipped at a controlled tip at Feltham, but the Council has contracted with the Sunbury and Twickenham Councils for the construction of a refuse destructor at Charlton, Sunbury, which is hoped to come into operation during 1954.

During 1953, the Council decided to empty one dustbin free of charge from every shop in the district, subsequent bins to be charged at the rate of 6d. per bin. This facility has been generally appreciated by the traders in the area.

During the year a rag and bone merchant was fined for unauthorised dumping of rubbish at the side of an unmade road. An increasing number of such incidents were reported throughout the district, generally on the verges of little used roads.

Refuse dumped in this manner, unless quickly removed, very soon gets added to, and the resulting tip becomes unsightly and frequently rat infested. The removal of such accumulations is a recurring charge on the rates.

On several days during the year nuisance from smell was apparent from the experimental tipping of refuse into water at a disused gravel pit at Egham. A visit was made to this tip with the Sanitary Inspector for that Council, and it was apparent that all practicable steps were being taken in the face of very real difficulties to minimise the risk of nuisance to residents on the windward side of the tip.

### **Shops Act, 1950**

143 visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors in connection with the administration of the Act, which deals with general closing hours of shops, statutory half-holidays and meal times for shop assistants, Sunday employment and Sunday trading, hours of employment of young persons and arrangements for health and comfort of shop workers.

The 1950 Act consolidated a great deal of previous legislation which was designed originally to meet a situation that no longer



exists. The advent of full employment has had the effect of improving the lot of the shop assistant for the reason that employees will leave to seek employment elsewhere if conditions do not appeal to them.

The working conditions in the shops in this area are generally very satisfactory, and no difficulty is experienced in securing improvements where they are deemed to be necessary.

New legislation is envisaged to control the sanitary circumstances of shops and offices, and during the year a draft of an intended Parliamentary bill was circulated. The Government does not feel able to introduce the bill at this stage, but Local Authorities would welcome more specific powers in regard to conditions in which people are required to work in offices.

One complaint was received from the father of a young person who had been required to work long hours at a hairdresser's establishment during Christmas week. It was found upon investigation that the young person had not worked more than the statutory number of hours, but records had not been kept. A warning was given, and records as required by the Act are now kept.

Discussions were held between the Council and the Chambers of Commerce in the Staines and Ashford areas, and it was decided to make no Order under the Act for specific half-day closing in these parts of the Urban District.

## **Caravans**

At the end of 1953, 43 occupied caravans were stationed in the district either on approved caravan sites or singly on land or in gardens adjacent to houses. Of this number, 17 had only temporary consent or were under notice to remove.

Two persons were summoned under the provisions of the Middlesex County Council Act during the year for occupying caravans without the prior consent of the Council.

There are three approved sites managed by private site operators in the district, one for ten, one for six and another for four caravans. Regular inspections were made of these sites and a high standard was maintained throughout the year.

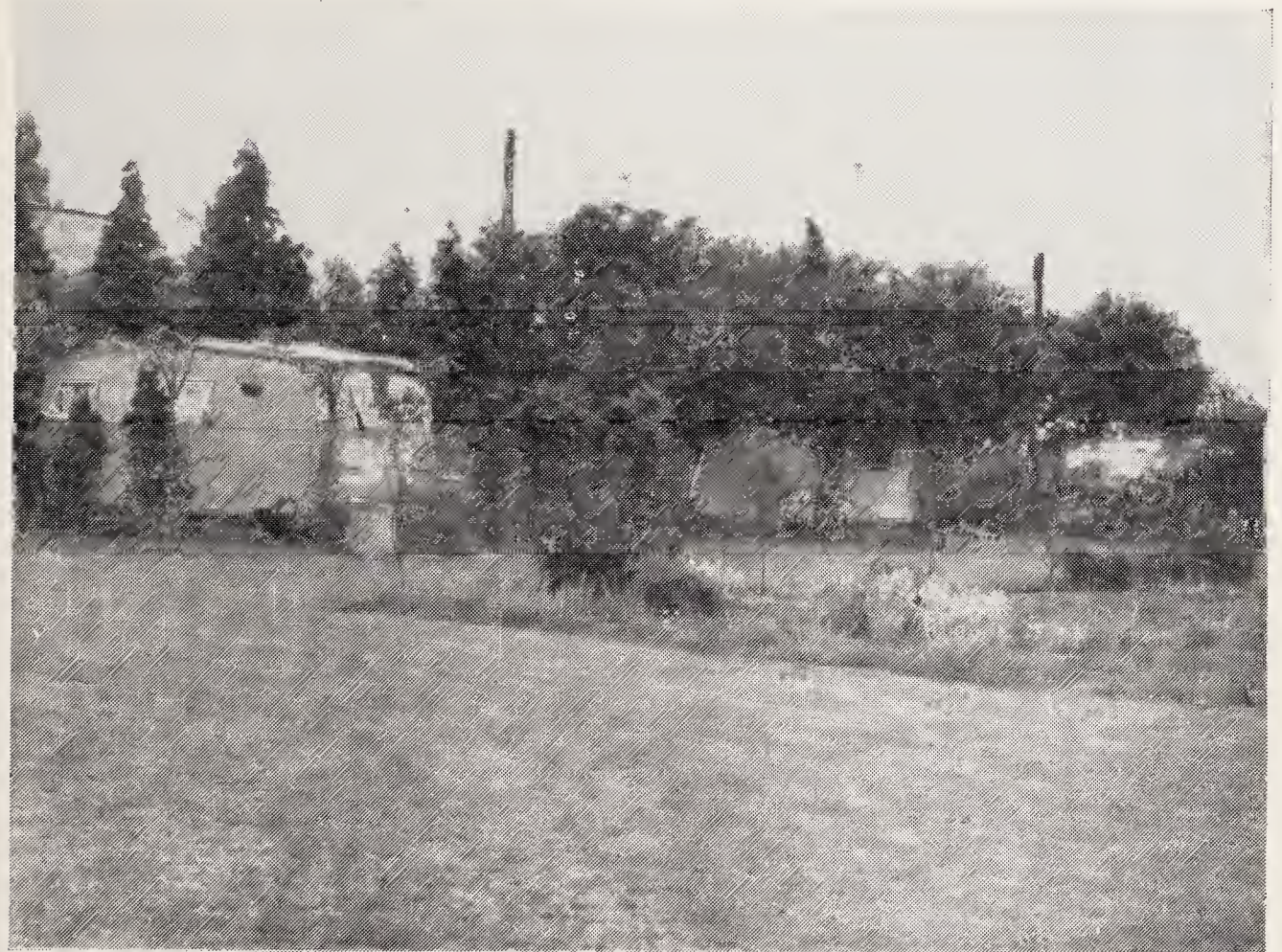
The Council continued to receive a large number of applications to station caravans on land within the district, but none of these applications was granted. In one or two cases where caravans had been brought into the area without prior consent, a period of a few months was given prior to legal action being instituted, in order to give the occupants an opportunity of finding an alternative site outside the District.



There is no doubt that the policy of restricting the number of caravans within the district to a minimum is the right one; if during the post-war years powers under the Middlesex County Council Act had not been rigorously applied, the requirements for new houses—already strained within the Urban District—would be quite insatiable from families who had outgrown the limited accommodation provided by a caravan, or whose caravan had rapidly fallen into disrepair.

Further complaints were received of vagrants invading quiet lanes and corners of the district with horse-drawn vans and occasional converted motor-lorries, and leaving rubbish and destruction behind them. These undesirable characters receive short shrift from the Sanitary Inspectors with the occasional help of the local Police, whose co-operation in this is appreciated.

At two farms in Stanwell there are several caravans occupied by persons employed as temporary agricultural workers. Such persons are exempted from the provisions of the Middlesex County Council Act, 1944, relating to the occupation of caravans. By reason of the temporary nature of their work, it is found that some of these people leave agricultural work to find more regular employment. They then cease to be exempt under this Act, and the Council has required them to leave the site.



*A caravan site in the District, showing good space between and around vans. Electricity supply is by overhead cable.*



## **Care of Old People**

Difficulty was experienced during the year in the case of several old persons living alone. Two of these people had acquired a great deal of useless rubbish in the rooms occupied by them; in one case the bulk of it was surrendered voluntarily to the Sanitary Inspector for destruction after a great deal of persuasion. In the other case, notice was served by the Sanitary Inspector under the provisions of Section 79 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and subsequently six three-ton lorry loads of material were removed from the two small rooms and kitchenette occupied by the person upon whom the notice was served, and who had done nothing to comply with the notice in the time allowed.

Another old man has lived for over twenty years in a wooden hut some 8ft. by 10ft. in area on land owned by himself. The hut contains a bed, an easy chair, an oil stove and a very few personal belongings. He is supplied with a hot mid-day meal daily by a neighbour, and although the accommodation is primitive, it is clean, as he is himself. The old man is determined not to accept residential care in an old persons' home, and in the circumstances, it is considered better not to disturb his present way of life until his failing health demands attention.

In cases where action was necessary, a great deal of time was spent in dealing with premises in an unsatisfactory state. Seldom could a relative be found who was able or prepared to assist. Statutory action can be taken under powers granted by Section 83 of the Public Health Act, 1936, but in the event of non-compliance with a notice served under this Section, the Council may carry out the requirements of the notice in default.

These old people seldom have any money apart from an old age pension or National Assistance, and the chance of a notice being complied with is remote. The Council needs then to do the necessary work of cleansing the accommodation in default, with a virtual impossibility of recovering the expense of so doing, and having in mind that it is an expense which may well recur if the person is unable to look after himself properly, cannot be got into a residential home and resists the offer of assistance—as is frequently the case—from neighbours or a home help.

## **Smoke Abatement**

In January of this year, the Council became a member of the National Smoke Abatement Society, and in June a South-Eastern Division of this Society was formed. The Council realises that the problem of smoke abatement is a regional rather than a local one, and is prepared to co-operate in any way likely to reduce



the serious nuisance which occurs annually from this source in the greater London area.

The complaints received in this area of smoking industrial chimneys invariably concern laundry premises which are notorious for requiring peak demands for steam which the plant available has difficulty in meeting. This results in overloading of the boilers, with consequent production of smoke. On some occasions, bad fuel has been the cause of smoke emissions, but the more common cause is carelessness or ignorance by the stokers. It is contended that all stokers of industrial boiler plants should be required to be registered with the Local Authority, and be able to show a certificate of competency prior to registration.

There is no doubt that the polluted atmosphere is responsible for a number of deaths annually in this and adjoining districts; though it must not be forgotten that smoke from domestic chimneys, over which no Local Authority has any control, is largely responsible for the air pollution. The Sanitary Inspectors, wherever possible, recommend to owners and occupiers of property the installation of new solid fuel burning appliances and the use of smokeless fuel.

### **Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951**

Only one firm is registered under the provisions of this Act and regular inspections of this factory were made to ascertain that the regulations made under the Act were complied with. The materials used by the firm are rag flock, cotton and wool felts, jute, hair and kapok. All these are materials commonly used in the upholstery trade and in the case of this factory are used in the manufacture of spring interior mattresses and divan beds. This is a modern factory and a high standard is maintained.

### **Pet Animals Act, 1951**

Five premises in the district are licensed under this Act to sell animals, birds and fish. The Act is designed to regulate the sale of pet animals for the prevention of cruelty and suffering. The Sanitary Inspectors visit the licensed premises from time to time.

### **Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952**

The Regulations made under this Act came into operation on 23rd March, 1953, and are enforced by the Public Health Department. They are designed to prevent the sale of gas, electric or oil space-heating appliances unless they are adequately protected by a guard which satisfies certain specific requirements. All the traders in the District engaged in the sale of these appliances have been visited and informed of these requirements.

## **Public Conveniences**

The Sanitary Inspectors make regular inspections of the public conveniences situated throughout the district. It is regretted that these buildings are the subject of a great deal of misuse and even vandalism. It is hoped that, where it is appropriate, washing facilities can be provided in existing conveniences; and will be incorporated in any newly erected.